

Ruff

## Lekking Week - Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Ruff

**Destination:** Kuusamo - Oulu, Finland

**Focus:** Lekking Ruff, Black Grouse and Capercaillie

**Grading:** Short day walks 500 - 1000m, for all ages

**Group size:** 4 - 6 photographers

**Time:** 5-11 May 2023

**Price:** 3555 € per person, single supplement 395 €

### Spring photography safari

Spring is busy times for wildlife photography in Finland - there are almost too many things going on in nature, especially in May. Luckily the days are long and the nights are short, giving plenty of light time to take photos. Most of our migrant birds such as **Ruff** are arriving back to Oulu region in early May. All of our five Grouse species are resident in Finland and their leks peak in May. Normally the females visit the lek sites on the second week of May and mating takes place in Kuusamo lekking arenas. Depending on the vole population cycles, **Owls** may have started their breeding and in that case we will dedicate couple of evenings for Owl photography as well.

This photography tour is planned for keen wildlife photographers and a lot of time will be spent in pro-hides to take the ultimate images of beautiful lekking birds. The magnificent **Capercaillie** lek in fairly open pine forest, the active and noisy **Black Grouse** lek in open arena with dark forest background in beautiful backlit conditions, and the delightful and colorful Ruff lek at eye level by the most important wetland reserve in Finland - Liminka Bay in Oulu area. Other great photography opportunities during the tour include **Whooper Swans** in action, and **Common Cranes** and several waterfowl species from the shore hides in Kuusamo. In Oulu area there are also good opportunities to photograph other shorebirds from the shore hide including **Spotted Redshank**, **Wood Sandpiper** and **Marsh Sandpiper**.



Capercaillie

### Highlights

Lekking Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Ruff, Whooper Swan, Common Crane, Goosander, Goldeneye, Wood Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank

### For more information:

[www.finnature.com](http://www.finnature.com)

info@finnature.fi

+358 45 129 4264

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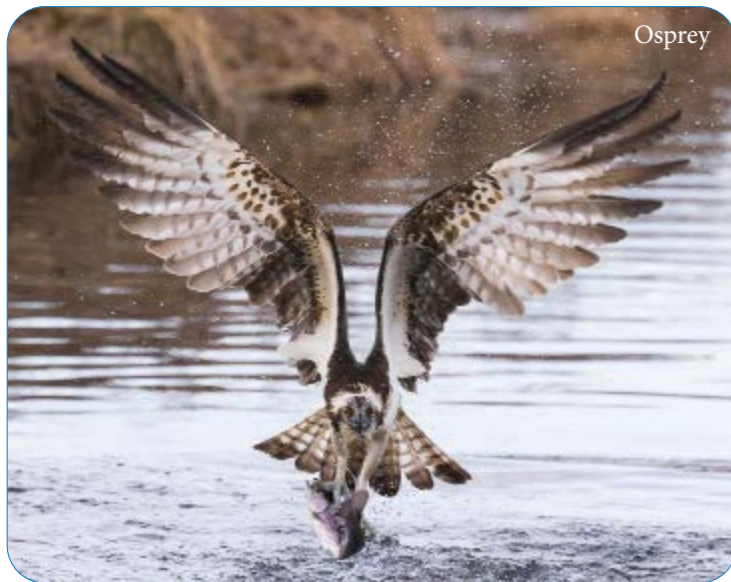


Capercaillie

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrival at Kuusamo

Arrival at Kuusamo airport with evening flight and transportation to Oivangin Lomakartano's log villa for accommodation, dinner and a short briefing for the program of the following days.



Osprey

### Day 2

Early morning start at 3.00 for a photography session in professional photography hides at the **Black Grouse** lek site. Black Grouse photography until the lek is over - normally by 8.00, and return to accommodation for late breakfast between 9.00 - 10.00. There might be chances for other Grouse species on the roadsides on the way back. Afternoon break or independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 15.00. At 15.00 start from the accommodation and drive to **Osprey** hides, where we photograph the diving and fishing Ospreys for the next 4 - 5 hours. On the way back there might be chances for **Capercaillie** or Black Grouse on the roadsides (or **Owls** if available).

### Day 3

This morning we sleep a little longer. After 7.00 breakfast, we head to morning photography session with **White-throated Dipper** along a flowing river. After the Dipper session, return to accommodation for lunch. Few hours break or independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 17.00. Dinner at 17.00 and after that head to **Capercaillie** hides. Staying in the hides overnight.

### Day 4

Before dawn, we are ready in our hides for the **Capercaillie** lek. When the lek is over between 9.00 - 10.00, we return to our accommodation for breakfast. After early dinner we head once again to the **Whooper Swan, Common Crane, White-tailed Eagle** and waterfowl from the shore hides by a lake.



Whooper swans in Kuusamo



Black Grouse



Ruff

### Day 5 Departure from Kuusamo to Oulu

Another early morning start at 3.00 for a photography session in the professional photography hides at the **Black Grouse** lek site. Black Grouse photography until the lek is over, and return to the accommodation for breakfast between 8.00 - 9.00. On the way back there might be chances for other Grouse species on the roadsides. Check-out from accommodation and departure to Oulu by bus. In Oulu you meet another Finnature guide at the bus station. Transfer and check-in to the accommodation and lunch. Break in the middle of the day before dinner. **Ruff** photography from either the lek site hides or feeding site hides in the evening - from 18.00 - 22.00.

### Day 6

Early morning start at 3.00 for a **Ruff** lek photography session in our professional photography hides. Ruff photography until the lek slows down - normally by 8.00, and return to the accommodation for late breakfast between 9.00 - 10.00. Afternoon break and independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 17.00. Dinner and departure either back to the Ruff hides for the evening or for **Owl** photography in Oulu region - if Owls are available.

### Day 7 Departure from Oulu

One more early morning photography session at the **Ruff** lek site from pro-hides. Breakfast between 9.00 - 10.00. Check-out from the hotel and transportation to Oulu airport for your flight.

For more pictures: [Finnature's Flickr Gallery](#)

**Price includes:** Finnature guiding throughout the journey. Use of professional photography hides. All meals, accommodation and land transportation during the week. Tour starts from Kuusamo airport and ends to Oulu airport. For extra price transportation from Oulu to Kuusamo if needed.

**Accommodation:** [Oivangin Lomakartano](#)'s log villa in Kuusamo and Park Hotel Liminka for 5 nights. Please notice that 1 night will be spent in Capercaillie hide.

**Food:** Local restaurants and picnic lunches

**Leader:** Finnature guide

**Possible extensions:** Eagle Owl, Brown Bear, Wolverine and Wolf photography

**Booking:** [shop.finnature.com](http://shop.finnature.com)

**Recommended flights:** We recommend to arrive to Kuusamo at 9 pm (AY487) and to depart from Oulu at 2:30 pm (AY438) in the afternoon.

**Please notice:** The itinerary might change due to weather conditions or bird situation. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee any of the species, but our expert Finnature guides do their utmost to ensure the best possible photography opportunities during the tour.

Official Package travel trader (Organiser) and  
Travel agent Registration number: 1193/05/Mj



Boreal Owl

Finnature Oy Ltd  
+358 45 129 4264  
info@finnature.fi

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